Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USBERL 01058 031851Z

43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 035357
R 021535Z JUN 75
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 999
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1058

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD AND OPS ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS3
TAGS: PGOV, MSOP, WB, GE, US, UR
SUBJECT: EXFILTRATION IN U.S. FORCES VEHICLE

1. SUMMARY: EVENING MAY 30 US ARMY SERGEANT (E-6), IN CONNIVANCE WITH MILITARY POLICE ASSIGNED CHECKPOINT CHARLIE, EXFILTRATED EAST GERMAN FAMILY FROM EAST BERLIN IN TRUNK OF HIS CAR, APPARENTLY WITHOUT DETECTION BY EAST GERMAN BOUNDARY GUARDS. SERGEANT AND MP ACCOMPLICES WERE IMMEDIATELY APPREHENDED. EXFILTREES GAVE STATEMENT TO US AUTHORITIES AND DEPARTED BERLIN FOLLOWING DAY FOR FRANKFURT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT 2155 MAY 30 US ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (E-6) CHARLES L. PEAK EXFILTRATED EAST GERMAN DOCTOR, WIFE, AND SON FROM EAST BERLIN IN TRUNK OF HIS US FORCES REGISTERED 1969 CADILLAC WITHOUT APPARENT DETECTION BY EAST GERMAN BOUNDARY GUARDS. PEAK HAD ENTERED EAST BERLIN VIA CHECKPOINT CHARLIE AT 1800. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ON BASIS OF TIP AND INFO FROM SURVEILLANCE TEAM OF MILITARY POLICE INVESTIGATORS, MILITARY POLICE OFFICER WENT TO CHECKPOINT CHARLIE AND DETERMINED THAT PEAK HAD ENTERED EAST BERLIN WITHOUT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 USBERL 01058 031851Z

BEING PROPERLY REGISTERED BY MILITARY POLICEMEN ON

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

DUTY AT CHECKPOINT.

3. WHEN PEAK EMERGED FROM EAST BERLIN HIS CAR WAS IMMEDIATELY DIRECTED INTO AREA OUT OF VIEW OF EAST GERMAN PERMAN PERSONNEL WHERE QUICK CHECK REVEALED THREE PERSONS IN TRUNK. PEAK AND MPS AT CHECKPOINT WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, HIS CAR WAS DRIVEN IMMEDIATELY TO SECLUDED AREA OF US ARMY COMPOUND WHERE THREE EAST GERMAN REFUGEES WERE REMOVED FROM TRUNK AND TURNED OVER TO US AUTHORITIES AT MARIENFELD REFUGEE CENTER. THEY WERE PROCESSED THROUGH THE CENTER AND FLEW TO FRANKFURT MAY 31.

4. STATEMENT BY REFUGEES AND RELATIVE WHO MET THEM IN WEST BERLIN INDICATES: (A) DM 42,000 WAS PAID THROUGH INTERMEDIARY FOR EXFILTRATION; AND (B) EXFILTRATORS HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED RENDEZVOUS FOR MAY 3 WHICH FAMILY COULD NOT MEET; NEXT DATE WAS SET FOR MAY 29, WHEN EXFILTRATORS DID NOT APPEAR.

5. EVIDENCE UNCOVERED THUS FAR IN INVESTIGATION INDICATES: (A) PEAK USED FORGED TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR TRIP TO EAST BERLIN ON MAY 3 AND MAY 29; AND (B) PEAK'S VEHICLE WAS MODIFIED WITH ADJUSTABLE LOAD-LEVELING SHOCK ABSORBERS, WHICH COMPENSATED FOR ADDITIONAL WEIGHT OF REFUGEES IN REAR SO THAT EAST GERMAN PERSONNEL AT CHECKPOINT COULD NOT OBSEVE ANY NOTICEABLE LOWERING OF REAR OF VEHICLE.

6. USBER/USCOB CONSIDERING ACTION AGAINST US PERSONNEL INVOLVED AND POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CORRECTIVE MEASURES. MATTER HAS NOT COME TO ATTENTION OF PRESS. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE CLOSELY RESTRICTING ABOVE INFO.

7. USCOB CONCURS.GEORGE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCUSAREUR.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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